



Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

**September 25, 2022**

**Nehemiah 4:6-23: Pray, Endure, Encourage Others**

Nehemiah 4 paints the picture of

- ...how ridicule, discouragement, and opposition come against every good work for God.
- ...and how to respond (pray, endure, encourage each other)

What is the backdrop to Nehemiah 4?



What came first from the enemies of God?

In what ways did their opposition grow?

How did the people respond initially?

How did Nehemiah respond to the opposition?

*“...that our idea of God corresponds as nearly as possible to the true being of God is of immense importance to us.” (A.W. Tozer)*

Describe the workers tasks daily.

Where do ridicule, discouragement, and opposition come from?

- Because of apparent success...
- From jealousy...
- From those with a different agenda...
- From those feeling excluded or suspect we had motives...
- From those who don't want anything to change...
- From Satan...

Why is it so powerful?

- It often comes when we are tired, exhausted, and feel insecure.
- It comes from someone close or powerful.
- It can cause us to doubt and give up.

How should we respond? Hopefully, the same as Nehemiah.

Pray, Endure, Encourage Others.

*...For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)*

*But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives... (2 Peter 3:8-11)*

*"Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." (Nehemiah 4:14)*

## HOME GROUP Questions ...

After re-reading Nehemiah 4 in your home groups...

1. What sticks out to you from this chapter?
2. Describe a time you have been ridiculed or discouraged in your service to the Lord or in your obedience to Him.
3. Describe a time you have experienced encouragement in a difficult moment similar to the encouragement Nehemiah gave the people.
4. On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate yourself as an encourager and as a supporter of others in the body of Christ?
5. What would it take to move up one level this week?
6. What are the obstacles that get in the way of serving one another in the church? How could those be overcome?